

SCAHEC

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SCRIPT Wraps Up 2005 Session

Diane Kennedy, MS, Lowcountry AHEC Center Director & SCRIPT Project Director

The South Carolina Rural Interdisciplinary Program of Training (SCRIPT) held five sessions throughout the state during the past three months. The program is sponsored by Lowcountry AHEC, in collaboration with Mid-Carolina, Pee Dee, and Upstate AHEC centers. SCRIPT has the goal of preparing health professions students to deliver culturally acceptable care in rural settings from an interdisciplinary, community-focused perspective. Living and practicing in a rural community enables health professions students to learn that rural health care presents unique challenges as well as opportunities for a positive, high-quality lifestyle, both personally and professionally.

Throughout the year the SCRIPT team works diligently to prepare for the program. The Health Professions Student (HPS) Coordinators are busy in their rural areas arranging the many details by collaborating with health professions preceptors, community liaisons, community groups, and many other individuals and groups that it takes to bring this project together.

Since 1993, the Bureau of Health Professions' Quentin N. Burdick Program for Rural Interdisciplinary Training has funded SCRIPT. In 2000, Lowcountry AHEC received an additional SCRIPT grant from The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Southern Rural Access Program,

which is administered in South Carolina by the South Carolina Office of Rural Health. The RWJF grant allowed the program to go beyond the Lowcountry of South Carolina by developing SCRIPT into the present statewide program.

SCRIPT 2005 served 74 students from six universities who were placed in over 20 counties across the four AHEC regions of the state. SCRIPT 2005 students included

the following universities: Medical University of South Carolina, Clemson University, Francis Marion University, University of South Carolina, South Carolina State University, and Winthrop University. Health professions disciplines included medicine, dentistry, physician assistant, pharmacy, nursing,

physical therapy, health nutrition, speech therapy, and health administration.

SCRIPT 2005 students commented on what they had learned from their interdisciplinary interaction. A nursing student from Francis Marion University found his preconceptions of other disciplines had changed and commented, "I was able to see their true views on different situations instead of stereotypical views."

A Medical University of South Carolina dental

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SCRIPT Students from the Mid-Carolina AHEC Region Participate in Field Trips

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Fall
2005

**SOUTH
CAROLINA AHEC**

Excellence In Health Care Through Education

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student noted that “We all care for patients in different ways-referrals are good!” A Winthrop University nutrition student was placed in a student house with four other disciplines and felt that time together gave her an opportunity to “Have some great discussions. I enjoyed learning from their life experiences and perspectives on rural life.”

SCRIPT has shown that immersion of health professions students for a relatively short period of time in rural, interdisciplinary, community-based health care increases their likelihood of working in interdisciplinary teams and selecting rural, underserved practices. Past surveys have shown that 85% demonstrated intent to practice on an interdisciplinary team and 55% demonstrated intent to practice in a rural area. This fall Lowcountry AHEC will conduct a survey of students who graduated from their health professions disciplines in the last two years. There are also plans to survey students up to five years after graduation to determine if they have continued to practice in rural areas or have become rural providers after initially working in urban areas.

Recently, Lowcountry AHEC and the entire SCRIPT team was acknowledged for their hard work by receiving a continuation of funding for an amazing fifth cycle through the Quentin N. Burdick Program for Rural Interdisciplinary Training (Grant #D36HP16004). The grant award in the amount of \$358,000 will begin in 2006, and will be SCRIPT's 13th year.

The project builds upon a successful statewide model for rural interdisciplinary training in South Carolina. While *SCRIPT 2003* expanded the program to all major universities in South Carolina and into all South Carolina Area Health Education Consortium regions, *SCRIPT 2006* significantly expands its program



Pee Dee AHEC Students Interact With Speaker



Upstate AHEC Students Get Hands-On Experience

to enhance the amount of relevant research conducted concerning health care issues in rural areas. Innovative methods in the interdisciplinary training of health professions students to provide care in rural areas will continue, but project activities and disciplines will expand to include mentored health services research by doctoral students in health economics, public health, and nursing. In addition, an enhanced emphasis on grassroots advocacy will be incorporated into interdisciplinary team skills training.

For more information about SCRIPT Programs, call (803) 943-5052, email kennedyd@lcahec.com, or visit www.lcahec.com.

2005 SCRIPT Student Numbers by Session and Discipline

Session #	Med	Dental	PA	Pharm	Nursing	PT	Nutrition	Health Admin	Speech	Total
1		1	1	2	5	1		3	1	14
2	5			2	5			1	2	15
3	1	1	1	3	5		1	2		14
4	6	1		1	1	1	2	2		14
5	4		2	3	5		2	1		17
Total	16	3	4	11	21	2	5	9	3	74

2005 SCRIPT Student Numbers by Session and University

Session	MUSC	Clemson	FMU	USC	SCSU	Winthrop	Total
1	9		4		1		14
2	7	1	3	1		2	15
3	6		4	3	1	1	14
4	8		1	1		4	14
5	7		3	5		2	17
Total	37	1	15	10	2	9	74



Lowcountry AHEC Students Develop Team Building Skills

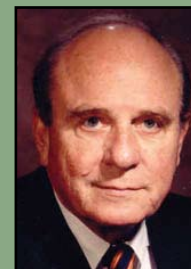


Lowcountry AHEC Nursing Student Presents Research on Childhood Obesity in Colleton County



The Summer is Not Complete Without A Watermelon Seed Spitting Contest

Former Director of Medical Education for Greenville Hospital System Passes



The Rev. Raymond Crawford Ramage, M.D., former surgeon and ordained Episcopal priest, died on Wednesday, August 10, 2005, at the age of 85.

Dr. Ramage was an integral part of the formation of the South Carolina Consortium of Community Teaching Hospitals in 1970 and was a "founding father" of the South Carolina AHEC in 1972.

Dr. Ramage was a graduate of the University of Florida and Duke University School of Medicine, where he also completed his internship. A veteran of World War II, Dr. Ramage served as a surgeon in the Army Medical Corps from 1944 to 1946 in the Pacific Theater, which included Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima. After WWII, he was Chief Resident in Surgery and Instructor in Surgery at the University of Alabama Medical Center in Birmingham, Alabama.

In 1953, Dr. Ramage began his medical practice in Greenville in general and thoracic surgery. In 1969, he became Director of Medical Education of the Greenville Hospital System and later was appointed as Associate Dean and Professor of the Medical University of South Carolina. From 1982 to 1986, Dr. Ramage returned to Florida and served as the Vice President of Medical Education of the Orlando Regional Medical Center and Professor of Surgery and Associate Dean of the University of Florida. Upon his return to Greenville in 1986, Dr. Ramage continued to assist the Greenville Hospital System in its physician recruitment efforts. From 1979 to 1982, he served as chairman of a task force on graduate medical education charged with developing and integrating South Carolina's medical education schools and teaching hospitals, and he served as Governor Carroll Campbell's appointee on the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education from 1988 to 1996.

He is survived by his wife, three children and five grandchildren.

National Health Service Core Ambassadors Conference

Emily Warren, Health Professions Student Coordinator, Lowcountry AHEC

South Carolina AHEC was well represented at the 2005 National Health Service Core (NHSC) Ambassadors Conference on July 28-30, in Washington, DC. Executive Director, Dr. David Garr, along with Health Professions Student Coordinators, Mary Cabaniss, Julie Ghent, Cynthia Gilster, Dianne Jacobs, and Emily Warren networked and learned about the importance of service to the underserved through the NHSC Ambassador program.

The NHSC is a federally funded program under the United States Department of Health and Human Services and is housed in the Health Resources and Services Administration's Bureau of Health Professions. The NHSC is committed to improving the health of the nation's underserved by bringing together communities in need with high-quality primary health care professionals, and through supporting communities in their effort to build better systems of care.



South Carolina AHEC National Health Service Core Ambassadors

The United States is facing the important public health issue of recruitment and retention of clinicians to work in underserved areas. At the present time, 53 million people continue to lack access to quality health care. South Carolina AHEC coordinators serve as NHSC Ambassadors and are in the position to assist with this challenge. Each day they are in direct contact with students and have the ability to identify those who would be committed and dedicated clinicians for the underserved.

The conference allowed the coordinators to experience the power of collaboration, share resources and partnership ideas, and share successes and

strategies. They left full of ideas to implement in South Carolina and re-energized to serve our state by recruiting one clinician at a time into underserved communities.

Community Service Earns Rewards for Students

Service learning continues to serve as a strong component of the South Carolina AHEC Association of Future Health Professionals because it provides opportunities for student associates to impact communities. Whether through group or individual initiatives, volunteering also allows participants to understand the needs of the community and the difference that one person can make.

The **Sabra C. Slaughter, PhD Humanitarian Award Program** was initiated in 2003 to recognize the contributions that Association members provide through service learning across the state. The award honors the legacy of former South Carolina AHEC Executive Director, Sabra Slaughter, who was on hand during the 2005 Leadership Banquet to assist in the presentation of this year's award recipients.

Five individuals qualified to receive the award with their completion of 100 hours of documented community service during a 12 month period:

Gabrielle Brannen	Upstate AHEC Chapter
Julie Duoangchak	Upstate AHEC Chapter
Aasha Foster	Mid-Carolina AHEC Chapter
Jamelia Smalls	Lowcountry AHEC Chapter
Jason Williams	Mid-Carolina AHEC Chapter

These students, along with the 2004 recipients Dannis Brown of Mid-Carolina AHEC, and Maurice Miller and Lauren Brewer of Upstate AHEC, were also awarded the **National President's Volunteer Service Award** sponsored by the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation.

SC AHEC commends the efforts of these students who have chosen to demonstrate values that strengthen the state while helping to build a culture of service and responsibility.

Recruiting Trail Leads to Kansas City

Cheryl Haynes, Recruitment Coordinator, Palmetto Health Family Medicine Residency Program

The eight Family Medicine Residency Programs in South Carolina were well represented at the Academy of Family Physician's National Conference for Students and Residents held in Kansas City on July 27-30. South Carolina AHEC sponsored seven students from the University of South Carolina's School of Medicine, 16 residents, five residency program directors, and five faculty members from across the state.

Throughout the conference, the South Carolina contingent was busy manning the recruiting booth, meeting students and sharing with them all that the state has to offer. A total of 97 students representing 26 states visited the booth, many returning for second and third visits. Several said that they had heard great things about our programs and were eager to learn more. Representatives talked with students from as far away as Utah, New York, and Illinois.

Each student was given an interactive CD developed by the South Carolina AHEC and the Family Medicine Program Directors Council. The

CD is an introduction to the state as well as to the individual Family Medicine Residency Programs.

This year's conference theme was "Your Voice Counts – Who Do You Speak For?" Students and residents participated in clinical workshops and lectures. Workshops ranged in topics from basic suturing, to no-scalpel vasectomies, to musculoskeletal clinics. The didactics covered a multitude of clinical topics as well as professional development topics including survival skills for the intern years and developing political advocacy skills.

The conference was a tremendous opportunity for everyone who attended.

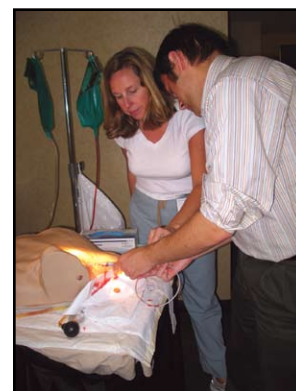
Students and residents were able to enhance their professional skills, the residency programs were afforded the opportunity to meet future family physicians, and most importantly, encourage them to visit and experience for themselves what southern hospitality has to offer.

For more information about South Carolina AHEC's Family Medicine Residency Programs, visit www.scahec.net and select Graduate Medical Education. Copies of the CD are available by contacting Becky Seignior at seignior@musc.edu.



Practice Opportunities Fair Celebrates 20th Anniversary: Family Medicine Interest Day Passes 16 Years

On August 13, 70 students, 48 residents, and 30 exhibitors, community health centers, hospitals and private physicians gathered in Columbia for the 20th Annual Practice Opportunities Fair and 16th Annual Family Medicine Interest Day. The Fair allowed residents to identify practice opportunities within South Carolina and network with health care organizations across the state. Medical students who attended the Interest Day participated in hands-on workshops conducted by South Carolina AHEC's Family Medicine Residency Training Programs' Directors and faculty. Both events promote the specialty of family medicine as a career option and aim to increase the retention rates of physicians. These opportunities are a joint venture between the SC AHEC, the SC Family Medicine Residency Programs and the SC Academy of Family Physicians.



Summer Institute Educates, Inspires Future Health Professionals

Angelica Williams, Student Development and
Diversity Program Director

"Changing the Face of Healthcare" was the mission and theme of the South Carolina AHEC 2005 Future Health Professionals Leadership Institute. The Institute was held June 7-10 on the campus of SC State University in Orangeburg, SC. This sixth annual Institute hosted 157 high school and undergraduate students from across the state as they explored health careers. Collaborators for this year's Institute included South Carolina State University and the Medical University of South Carolina's Project EXPORT.

Forty-seven health care professionals, health professions students and educators facilitated interactive workshops and classes to promote the individual and team development of participants. Academic subjects included math, reading, writing and public speaking, while the professional sessions promoted training of health skills ranging from CPR to an introduction to phlebotomy to basic nursing techniques.

The Project EXPORT collaborative promoted healthy lifestyles and highlighted how lifestyle choices impact health disparities among South Carolinians. Additionally, Project EXPORT conducted sessions devoted to the study of metabolic syndrome and its implications for African-American communities in the state. The sessions included both didactic and clinical experiences.

Former South Carolina Representative Maggie Glover highlighted the week's activities as the Leadership Banquet's guest

speaker. Using the well known parable, *The Eagles Who Thought They Were Chickens*, written by Michael Wynn, Ms. Glover challenged the participants to "rise up and

stop scratching like chickens", and to "fly amongst the clouds" to obtain success by reaching for their personal best.

The week of June 7-10, 2005 was proclaimed "Future Health Professionals Week" by Governor Mark Sanford and Paul Miller, Mayor of Orangeburg. The SC Department of Education also endorsed the 2005 Institute's explorative academic and health career curriculum. As a result, participants at the high school level were eligible to receive .5 units of high school credit with the approval of their high school principal.

South Carolina AHEC is appreciative of the support that ensured the success of the largest Institute ever conducted. Special thanks are extended to: Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina • Furman University • Medical University of South Carolina, Office of Diversity • Palmetto Health Alliance • South Carolina Commission on Higher Education • South Carolina Medical Association Foundation • South Carolina Professional Association for Access & Equity • South Carolina State University • Sun Trust Bank • University of South Carolina, Office of Equal

Employment Opportunity Programs



Pre-Nursing Academy Launches Future Careers

Eighteen college undergraduates were immersed in the world of nursing during the second annual South Carolina AHEC/REACH 2010 Pre-Nursing Academy. The Academy was held May 31- June 3, 2005 on the campus of the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), and provided both didactic and clinical sessions for the participants who are currently enrolled in a pre-nursing education track at an accredited college or university in South Carolina.

The Academy is a collaborative effort of SC AHEC, the MUSC College of Nursing, and Project EXPORT of MUSC. The Academy is designed to increase the retention and graduation rates of minority and disadvantaged students within the nursing professions pipeline. Participants are provided with:

- Admissions requirements of South Carolina's academic nursing programs,
- Financial assistance information,
- Academic success tools,
- An overview of disciplines of nursing,
- Techniques of nursing skills, and
- Educational and professional opportunities of nursing.

MUSC faculty from the Colleges of Nursing and Medicine, the MUSC Writing Center and the Library facilitated the Academy sessions. Sessions focused on communications, health disparities, research, disease processes, calculations, and fundamentals of nursing. Members of the Tri-County Black Nurses Association served as facilitators of the evening forums, which highlighted the wide variety of practice areas in the field of nursing.

"I really enjoyed meeting the various nurses that showed the diversity of practice in the nursing field and that the field is always expanding," states 2005 Fellow, Ashley Fulton. "The Academy has helped me to decide that nursing is the career for me now that I understand what it will take and where I can go after I complete my training."

As a group activity, Academy Fellows were required to research and prepare projects on issues related to diabetes and metabolic syndrome, and present their findings to MUSC faculty members.



Students Present Posters on Metabolic Syndrome

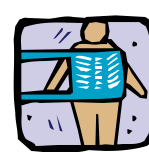
"I have learned that time management and team work will be key in my success as a pre-nursing major at USC," Ashley reflects. "Because of the short turn-around time on our Academy projects, I learned that I have to focus on the purpose at hand."

The Fellows were also required to revamp their projects for presentation to high school students during the 2005 Future Health Professionals Leadership Institute held the following week at South Carolina State University where the Fellows also served as peer mentors.

Special thanks are extended to the community sponsors of the 2005 Pre-Nursing Academy who contributed to its successful implementation: National Direct Diabetic Supply, Value Medical Diabetic Supply, Arby's Restaurant, and Clinical Administration of the MUSC Hospital Authority.



2005 Pre-Nursing Academy Participants



Health Professional Career Profile

Medical Technologists

Medical technologists interpret the results of laboratory tests and manage the flow of information from the laboratory to physicians, infection control personnel and public health officials. They also oversee many laboratory operations, supervise medical laboratory technicians and other personnel, and educate student technologists.

Areas of Specialization

- Bacteriology • Clinical Chemistry • Hematology
- Microbiology
- Immunohematology
- Immunology • Urinalysis

Places of Employment

- Clinical Laboratories • Doctors' Offices • Forensics • Hospital Laboratories • Industry • Medical Schools • Pharmaceutical Companies • Public Health Agencies • Research Organizations

Educational Preparation

Students interested in becoming medical technologists should take college preparatory courses in high school in mathematics including Algebra I, Algebra II and Geometry or a higher level math course for which Algebra II is a prerequisite; three science courses including one biological science, one physical science and one lab course; four English courses; two social studies courses including one in U.S. history; and two years of foreign language.

Medical technologists complete a Bachelor of Science degree program and complete a 12-month clinical education program either at a major university medical center or in conjunction with a hospital laboratory.

Licensure, Certification and Registration

Medical technologists must pass a national certification exam given by two agencies: the Board of Registry of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists or the National Certification Agency for Medical Laboratory Personnel.

Educational Programs

Generally, degree programs are organized as 3+1 or 4+1 with the first portion being completed at a four year institution in South Carolina. Examples include: Clemson University, Coker College, Columbia College, Converse College, Erskine College, Francis Marion University, Lander University, University of South Carolina and Winthrop University. Study is then completed at one of the three hospital-based programs in the state: Palmetto Health, McLeod Regional Health Center, and Lexington Medical Center.

Professional Organizations

American Society for

Clinical Laboratory Science, 7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 1301, Bethesda, MD 20814, 301-657-2768, www.ascls.org • **American Society of Clinical Pathologists**, 2100 West Harrison Street, Chicago, IL 60612, 312-738-1336, www.ascp.org • **National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences**, 8410 W Bryn Mawr Ave, Suite 670, Chicago, IL 60631, 773-714-8880, www.nacls.org



Griffin Keeps the Blood Flowing

Angelica Williams, Student Diversity and Development Program Director

Gina Griffin was a 10th grader at Hillcrest High School in Simpsonville, SC in 1993 when she was first introduced to the field of Medical Technology. She shared her interest with church member, Kemika Mattison, a Medical Technologist, who was the SDDP Coordinator for the former Greenville AHEC (now Upstate AHEC). Ms. Mattison knew just what she should do and suggested that Gina get involved in AHEC activities.

Becoming involved in the Student Development & Diversity Program, provided a wealth of unexpected opportunities for Gina. She interacted with a variety of health care professionals and other students who were exploring health careers. As a program participant, she developed a support group that reinforced her family's support and encouragement.

After graduation from Hillcrest High School, Gina earned a bachelor's of science degree in biology from Erskine College in Due West, SC. While a student at Erskine College, Gina remained involved with the AHEC program, completed summer internships and spoke to other AHEC students interested in Erskine College. With her degree in hand, Gina was accepted and enrolled as a graduate student in the last class to enter the Medical Technology program at the Medical

University of South Carolina (MUSC). From MUSC, she earned her master's of science degree in Clinical Laboratory Science with an emphasis in medical technology.

Since then, Gina has been employed by AnMed Health in Anderson, SC where she works in the blood bank with the donor and transfusion centers. AnMed is one of few hospitals in the state that facilitates the drawing of blood from donors for the various components of packed red cells, platelets and fresh frozen plasma.

As an Apheresis Tech, Gina draws single donor platelets from cancer patients. She finds the work rewarding because, "it decreases the risk they will have an allergic reaction which is crucial for cancer patients."

Gina encourages any student who is interested in exploring health careers to "ask lots of questions, and be persistent in finding the answers. Volunteer or do internships whenever you can whether it's in a hospital setting or community healthcare setting even if it means bypassing the traditional summer job because the rewards are long lasting."

If you are interested in learning more about the fields of clinical lab science, Gina invites you to contact her at ggriffin@anmed.com. Programs of study for Medical Technologists are available at colleges and universities across South Carolina.



Griffin in the AnMed Health Blood Bank



Griffin Works on a Variety of Tasks in the Lab



NeuroBlast!

Welcome to NeuroBlast!, an activity designed to improve the reader's knowledge of health careers and terminology. Laboratory science is a profession of healthcare that combines the challenges and rewards of medicine and science. Often unseen by the patient, the laboratory scientist provides vital support to the diagnosis and treatment of illness and disease. This edition NeuroBlast! will assist you in testing your knowledge of some of the specialty areas in laboratory sciences. Test your knowledge and challenge your friends. Answers can be found at **WWW.SCAHEC.NET**.

1. Which area of laboratory science prepares microscopic slides from tissue samples for examination by pathologists and scientists?	A. Cytotechnologist
2. Bacteriology, clinical chemistry, urinalysis and immunohematology are areas of specialization for which area of laboratory science?	B. Specialist in Blood Bank
3. What is the title of the laboratory science specialist who draws blood samples needed for medical tests and blood donations?	C. Blood Typing
4. What are the credentials of a clinical laboratory scientist who has completed an accredited bachelor of science in medical technology degree program?	D. Histology
5. Who are the specially trained laboratory technologists who study the structure and function of cells in the human body?	E. ASCLS
6. Phlebotomists and phlebotomy technicians follow which set of protocols to ensure that blood samples are taken with accuracy, efficiency and with least discomfort to the patient?	F. Phlebotomist
7. What type of specialized tests does the laboratory science specialists in blood bank (SBBs) perform?	G. Medical Laboratory Technologist
8. Which laboratory science area often works under the supervision of the medical technologist to use microscopes, computers, and other lab equipment?	H. ASCP
9. What are the credentials of a medical technologist?	I. Biosafety
10. Which laboratory science specialty performs routine and specialized tests in blood, bone marrow and stem cell banks and blood collection centers?	J. Medical Laboratory Technician

2005 Future Health Professionals Leadership Institute Competition Winners

Aisha J. Martin
SCAHEC Student of the Year
Mid-Carolina AHEC Student of the Year

Justin Warren
Upstate AHEC
Jeopardy

Latoya Bronson
Mid-Carolina AHEC
Essay

Sa'leisha Riggsbee
Pee Dee AHEC
Talent

Aasha B. Foster
Upstate AHEC Student of the Year

Aasha Foster
Upstate AHEC
Forensics

Ronda Munnerlyn
Pee Dee AHEC
Poster

Jamelia Smalls
Lowcountry AHEC Student of the Year

Ximena Sherard
Upstate AHEC
Human Resources

Ja'Leisa Turner
Pee Dee AHEC
SpellBound

Ronda Munnerlyn
Pee Dee AHEC Student of the Year



SC AHEC Names 2005 Future Health Professional of the Year

Aisha Martin has been named the 2005 SC AHEC Future Health Professional of the Year. Aisha is a rising junior at Richland Northeast High School and an active member of the Mid-Carolina AHEC Chapter of the SC AHEC Association of Future Health Professionals.

The SC AHEC Future Health Professional of the Year Award annually recognizes the exemplary academic preparation and community service of a member of the SC AHEC Association of Future Health Professionals. Nominees must have been an active member of the program for a minimum of 7 months; be a rising 11th or 12th grader, or graduating high school senior during the 2004-2005 school term; and possess a minimum 2.75 cumulative grade point average and a 3.0 cumulative average in math and science.

Aisha Martin exemplifies the dedication and focus needed to become a health professional. "My plan to achieve a career in health has already begun", she explains. "I am currently enrolled in additional math and science classes beyond those required for graduation."

"Academically, Aisha has proven that she is willing and able to master even the most rigorous educational courses while being involved in numerous community, extracurricular and volunteer activities", states Angel Clark, Student Development and Diversity Program Coordinator for Mid-Carolina AHEC.

The award was presented at the 2005 Future Health Professionals Leadership Institute which was held June 7-10, 2005, on the campus of South Carolina State University. The Institute provides an intensive opportunity for high school

and undergraduate students to explore health careers, develop and enhance skills to promote academic excellence and professionalism, explore opportunities and resources for the pursuit of higher education, and promote healthy lifestyles for themselves and their communities.



Aisha Martin Honored Both as Mid-Carolina and South Carolina AHEC Future Health Professional of the Year

"My involvement in AHEC has provided many opportunities to interact and hear from health care professionals and universities that specialize in preparing individuals for careers in health", explains Aisha.

For additional information about the Future Health Professional program or this year's award winner, please contact Angelica Williams, Director of Student Development and Diversity Programs, at (843) 792-4432 or willaa@musc.edu.

The South Carolina AHEC Student Development & Diversity Council proudly announces the winners of the 2005 SC AHEC Future Health Professionals Scholarships.

Kendra Hunter of Upstate AHEC, Chanel Jones of Mid-Carolina AHEC, Ronda Munnerlyn of Pee Dee AHEC and Jamelia Smalls of Lowcountry AHEC are the first recipients of the scholarships. Each received an award in the amount of \$400 to be applied to undergraduate education expenses for the 2005-2006 academic year.

Selected through a rigorous application process, applicants were required to be active members of the SC AHEC Association of Future Health Professionals; be a graduating high school senior or currently enrolled in an accredited program of undergraduate study; demonstrate a consistent and sincere interest in pursuing a health profession; and possess a minimum cumulative 2.7 GPA.

SC AHEC congratulates the outstanding accomplishments of the 2005 Scholarship winners.



CHANGING THE FACE OF HEALTHCARE

LaToya Bronson, Mid-Carolina AHEC Chapter
SC AHEC Association of Future Health Professionals

Health care is a very promising profession, although many times, minorities are underrepresented. As a minority student interested in becoming a health care provider, I strongly believe that differentiating within the health field will decrease disparities and health issues in minority communities. Similar people are faced with similar health issues and disparities and relate better to each other. The key goal to improving health care is to educate, evaluate and promote healthy people.

Education is a key role to life in general. Studies show that humans only do what they know. More minorities need to be educated and instructed so that they can become anything from a nurse to a doctor. Also, giving them the chance to “get their feet wet” within the profession is a part of the education process. Minorities are stricken with health disparities such as obesity, hypertension, stroke, etc., and adequate health care is not at the core of many families. Many minorities can relate to people of their own kind, which has a lot to do with geographical location, and the make up of their community including their jobs, transportation and economics.

Evaluation of the health care field is another significant point. My grandmother always states, “One hand washes the other”. Her statement says to me that you should never forget where you come from and to always help others because you never know when you might need help. Many minorities in South Carolina live in rural areas and live on limited incomes. This is often the reason that they let their body “go” and do not seek health care. I believe that going into rural areas and promoting health habits person by person will help to develop a better sense of similarity. People in these areas will become aware of federally funded programs to make sure that no one is “left behind”. More clinics could be built and offer sliding fee scales to increase visits to the doctor.

Last, many doctors are scared to go into (housing) projects, rural areas, shelters, etc. For example, *Healthy People 2010* is a goal for America, but like all things, you have to start at the root and work your way up. People have to gain trust in others and go into all areas to talk about healthy lifestyles. The initiative has to get people on the right track and set up whatever is needed to meet the medical needs of the people. People need to know that someone is there to care for them.

The output comes from the input. By educating and informing people about their health and common disparities, by showing and teaching them what they can do to make a change and positive turn around. The result will be an extraordinary output of healthy people by the year 2010.

*LaToya Bronson is a rising 12th grader at Spring Valley High School in Columbia, SC. A member of the Mid-Carolina AHEC Chapter of the SC AHEC Association of Future Health Professionals since 2002, Ms. Brunson is interested in a career in medicine in the field of obstetrics or becoming a physician assistant. Her essay, as printed, was selected as the winning entry during the 2005 Future Health Professionals Leadership Institute by independent judges, and printed with her permission. The Institute's 2005 theme, “Changing the Face of Healthcare” served as the topic for the essay, which was written in an on-site, proctored environment. In addition to Ms. Bronson, **Sa’Leisha Rigbsby** of the Pee Dee AHEC Chapter, **Aisha Martin** of the Mid-Carolina AHEC Chapter, and **Tamara Galloway** of the Upstate AHEC Chapter of the SC AHEC Association of Future Health Professionals participated in the 2005 Essay Competition.*



*LaToya Bronson Receives Award
for Her Winnng Essay*

Kennedy Coordinates the Bioterrorism Training Network

Given a short time span to respond to a request for a Bioterrorism Training (BT) grant, what must one do to prepare a winning application? This was the dilemma Beth Kennedy, BT Grant Director, had three years ago. Beth is the SC AHEC's Associate Program Director for Education and its grants writer. She has been writing grants for 15 years with a near perfect record of success.

This, however, was particularly difficult as the SC AHEC and Beth had never been involved in BT training, had major competition for the grant, and only a short time to develop the proposal.

After reading the Request for Applications, researching the topic, and identifying the important players, Beth began to draft the concept for the BT Training Network and to make contacts with all the agencies working with emergency preparedness. SC AHEC colleagues, academic partners (MUSC and USC), and state agency leaders (DHEC and the SC Hospital Association) contributed to the effort. With this help, the application was completed on time. The application received the highest score given to any applicant organization and was funded for \$2.1 million over two years.

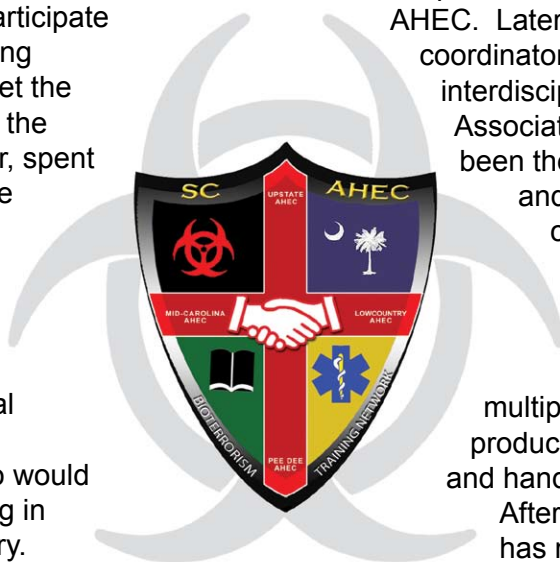
While writing the grant, Beth and Dr. Garr, the Executive Director for the South Carolina AHEC, identified key faculty who would be needed if the grant was funded. Every faculty member who was identified and asked to participate agreed. The result was a strong core faculty team ready to meet the challenge. Candace Luciano, the Upstate AHEC Center Director, spent two days in the Program Office helping to define the training curriculum and provided estimates for training supplies. She also provided editorial feedback on the proposal's final draft. Regional AHECs identified regional BT Coordinators and trainers who would manage the day to day training in each region. The rest is history.

again, there was a brief timeframe during which to respond. Once again, Beth was able to develop an application that responds to the new directives from the federal government.

Beth says she really enjoys the creative process of conceptualizing a new grant program and doesn't mind the hard work to get the application completed. "To have a seed of an idea, and watch it become a reality is very rewarding".

Being the Director for the BT Training Network has been a great opportunity to learn and grow. Dealing with the core faculty and regional coordinators has made the job even better. As Beth says, "I would not have missed it for the world".

Beth joined the South Carolina AHEC in 1979 after completing her graduate degree. As a research associate for reporting, her first AHEC role was to track all medical residents who had completed one of AHEC's residencies from 1972-1979. She also developed the first computerized data system for AHEC. Later she served as information system coordinator, evaluator, allied health director, interdisciplinary education director, and now Associate Program Director. She has also been the temporary nursing coordinator and diversity director during personnel changes. In the early 1990s she began her grant writing career when she co-authored a rural interdisciplinary training grant, a migrant health training grant, multiple Model AHEC and HETC grants, produced the first SC AHEC newsletter, and handled all state and federal reporting. After 27 years, there is not much she has not done for the SC AHEC.



As the end of Year II approached, the call for new applications came from Washington, DC. Once

For more information about the network, visit www.scahec.net.

Bioterrorism Trainer Elected To Association Board

Linda Byers, a Bioterrorism Education Trainer for the Pee Dee region of the South Carolina AHEC Bioterrorism Training Network, was elected in June as First Vice President of the South Carolina State Association of Occupational Health Nurses, Inc.

Linda is a Registered Nurse with a Bachelors of Science Degree in Nursing from the Medical University of South Carolina. She is certified in Emergency Nursing

(CEN), Occupational Health Nursing (COHN-S), Paramedic Instructor, and is a SC Regional Affiliate Faculty, ACLS. Linda has been a long time employee of McLeod Health since 1973. Her years of expertise add character and charisma to the Network's training activities.

"Linda is great instructor", explains Kimberly Fine, Pee Dee Bioterrorism Education Coordinator.

"Through humor and seriousness, she delivers the message to any audience in a clear and understanding fashion. It has been a pleasure and joy to work closely with Linda Byers in bringing Bioterrorism Education Awareness to healthcare professionals in the Pee Dee region of South Carolina."

Pee Dee AHEC is proud to have Linda Byers as a part of their team. Congratulations Linda!

"Biological Attacks...Are We Ready?" Educates Emergency Personnel

Upstate Area Health Education Center (AHEC) sponsored, "Biological Attack . . . Are We Ready?" a symposium for healthcare professionals focusing on statewide preparedness for biological emergencies, on May 26-28, 2005 in Greenville, South Carolina. Over 160 participants and vendors attended the three-day conference.

The conference was specifically designed for emergency medical personnel and other allied health professionals. "Every day in the United States, healthcare providers respond to biological emergencies", explains Karin Collom, Bioterrorism Coordinator for Upstate AHEC.

"All of us need to be prepared to handle these potentially catastrophic events. At this symposium, experts from all over South Carolina shared their experience and knowledge with healthcare professionals who work diligently to keep our state safe."

The Symposium kicked off Thursday, with a Table Top Exercise led by Dr. Ralph Shealy, Medical Director of the Charleston County EMS and Bioterrorism Training Network Co-Director. Dr. Shealy guided participants through a "what-if" biological attack scenario. Law enforcement officers, nurses, paramedics and other conference attendees explored how their organizations might respond to a biological emergency.

On Friday, Michael Schmidt, PhD, Vice Chairman of the Department of Microbiology at the Medical University of South Carolina, spoke to participants

about emerging infectious diseases and Doug Silk, Director of Operations for Regional One Flight Service in Spartanburg, shared his experience with the Ricin incident at the Greenville Post Office in September of 2003.

On Saturday, Bob Mixter, Director of Berkeley County EMS, spoke about "Agroterrorism" and its potential effects on our plant, animal and water supplies. Participants heard a first-hand account of the medical community's response to the chlorine gas train collision in Graniteville, South Carolina, on January 6, 2005, from Phil Clarke, Coordinator of Aiken County Emergency Medical Services.

A conference highlight was Randolph Mantooth, who played EMT "Johnny Gage" on the 1970's television show "Emergency". He greeted participants and signed autographs for many of those in the audience whose careers had been inspired by the show.

The South Carolina AHEC receives grant funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration for the Bioterrorism Training and Public Health Emergencies Network, of which Upstate AHEC is a member. This Network addresses the training needs of practicing health care professionals for the recognition of and response to bioterrorism and public health emergencies.

For more information about upcoming programs, visit www.scahec.net and click on the bioterrorism shield.

Bowers Responds as Lowcountry AHEC Bioterrorism Trainer

Barbara Burden, Bioterrorism Education Coordinator, Lowcountry AHEC

In the event of a public health emergency, the speed and efficiency at which health professionals respond will be an important factor in saving lives. For the past two years, Lowcountry AHEC has benefited from the experience Raymond Bowers has brought to the Bioterrorism Training Network.

Raymond is a District Supervisor for Charleston County EMS and provides tactical medical support for local, state, and federal SWAT teams. He also provides medical support for dignitary protection operations, and functions as an EMS Patient Decon Manager for the Lowcountry Chemical, Ordnance, Biological, **RA**diological (COBRA) Response Team.

In coordination with the US Secret Service, Raymond has provided medical coverage for dignitaries such as Presidents' Clinton and Bush and their entourages. Raymond also provides tactical medical support for agencies such as the Charleston County Sheriff's Office, North Charleston Police, South Carolina State Law

Enforcement Division, FBI, ATF, and US Marshall's Office.

Raymond has given numerous Bioterrorism presentations in the last two years based on his extensive knowledge of the subject. His presentations have been well received by audiences from the twelve counties served by Lowcountry AHEC.

"The key thing we want to convey to people is that public health emergencies can happen any time and place," Raymond states. "We want to inform as many people as we can that they really have a responsibility to receive this training, so we'll be much better prepared to handle these emergencies."

South Carolina AHEC is proud to have Raymond Bowers as one of our outstanding Bioterrorism Trainers.



Bowers Leads a BT101 Course

Upcoming SC AHEC Events

September 16 , 2005

Bioethics, Genetics & The Human Genome Project

Location: The Madren Conference Center, 100 Madren Center Drive, Clemson, SC

Registration Info: The fee for the conference is \$20 early bird by August 16 and \$30 after that date. For more information, contact 864-349-1160.

September 30, 2005

Research: The Cornerstone for Innovations in Healthcare

Location: The University Center of Greenville Auditorium, 225 South Pleasantburg Drive, Greenville, SC

Registration Info: The fee for the conference is \$75 for non-members; \$10 for Upstate AHEC Consortium members; and \$10 for students. For more information, contact 864-349-1160.

October 26-28, 2005

2005 South Carolina HIV/STD Conference

Location: Hyatt Regency, Greenville, SC

Registration Info: Regular registration fee (must be received by October 7) is \$100/day or \$240/all three days. Late registration fee (must be received by October 21) is \$140/day or \$300/all three days. For more information, contact 803-237-6150.

November 4, 2005

South Carolina Summit on Aging: "Aging With Vitality"

Location: Embassy Suites Hotel, 200 Stoneridge Drive, Columbia, SC 29210

Registration Info: Conference registration fee is \$50. Onsite registration is \$65. For more information and to register, call 803-777-4221.

Updated information is regularly added to the "Upcoming Events & AHEC News" section on www.scahec.net.



David R. Garr, MD

EDITOR

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CALL FOR ARTICLES

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The editorial staff of “SC AHEC Connects” welcomes the submission of articles, success stories, upcoming events and news for the Winter Edition.

Please forward information, articles and photos to
Ragan DuBose at duboser@musc.edu.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS
November 1, 2005!

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